

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JJFEENEY:AVW

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S:JCOVEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 029902 TOSEC 030003

FOR SECRETARY FROM FUNSETH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: REQUEST FROM NEWSWEEK'S MEL
ELFIN FOR YOUR COMMENTS ON AP ARTICLE.(S/S 7602580)

SUMMARY:

1. MEL ELFIN OF NEWSWEEK WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT
THE ARTICLE BY BARRY SCHWEID (BELOW) ALLEGING THAT YOU
HAVE MADE A "POLICY DECISION TO MEET CONGRESS HEAD-ON OVER
ISSUES INSTEAD OF EMPHASIZING CONCILIATION".

2. SCHWEID ARTICLE READS: SECSTATE KISSINGER WILL MEET
CONGRESS HEAD-ON OVER ISSUES INSTEAD OF EMPHASIZING CONCILI-
ATION, ACCORDING TO POLICY DECISION HE HAS MADE.

AT SAME TIME, KISSINGER HAS DECIDED TO KEEP UP HIS GRASS
ROOTS SPEAKING CAMPAIGN, WHICH THIS WEEK TOOK HIM TO LOS
ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO AND LARAMIE, WYOMING THAT MEANS CHANG-
ING CHARGES OF PARTISANSHIP AS THE ELECTIONS DRAW NEAR.

MEANWHILE, FRIENDS OF KISSINGER ARE SAYING THAT HE HAS GIVEN
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UP ANY THOUGHTS OF QUITTING BEFORE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS AND

THAT HE PLANS TO STAY ON, PROVIDED PRESIDENT FORD WANTS HIM IN THE JOB.

ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THIS ATTITUDE IS SAID TO BE KISSINGER'S RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE HIS SUCCESSOR WITH COMPLICATED AND DELICATE JOB OF COMPLETING TERMS FOR A NEW 10-YEAR TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION TO LIMIT OFFENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

HIS NEW GLOVES-OFF STANCE TOWARD CONGRESS DREW AN ATTACK THURSDAY FROM SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD, THE USUALLY PLACID DEMOCRATIC LEADER, WHO SAID KISSINGER OUGHT TO ACCEPT THAT CONGRESS WILL SPEAK ITS MIND ON FOREIGN POLICY INSTEAD OF "POINTING THE FINGER" AT CAPITOL HILL.

KISSINGER AND HIS AIDES INSIST THAT HIS VISITS TO THE HEARTLAND DO NOT REPRESENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING AT ALL. HIS SPOKESMAN, ROBERT FUNSETH, SAID THURSDAY THAT KISSINGER IS SIMPLY "EXPLAINING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE."

3. ELFIN IS WORKING ON A STORY ON THIS SUBJECT FOR NEXT WEEK'S EDITION. HE WOULD NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU BEFORE NOON SATURDAY WHICH IS HIS DEADLINE. HIS OFFICE PHONE NUMBER IS 202-298-7880. HIS HOME PHONE NUMBER IS 202-234-3466.

4. RECOMMEND YOU PHONE ELFIN BEFORE HIS SATURDAY DEADLINE. APPROVE DISAPPROVE.

CLEARED: S:JCOVEY SISCO

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